

Specification Amendments

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Attachment of NLS was performed as follows: the NLS peptide comprising the sequence PKKKRKV (Seq ID 3) was attached to the ODN in two steps. First, the modified oligonucleotide 5'-PH-dGGG AGT CCA GT xT TTC TGG AC (where xT represents an amino-modified thymine base with a C2 amino linking residue; = ODN 1 = Seq ID 4) was activated with sulfo-KMUS (5mM) in PBS at room temperature. The reaction was stopped after 120 min by adding 50 mM tris-(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane and the activated ODN was obtained after ethanol precipitation (300mM NaOAc pH 5.2, 5.5 mM MgCl₂, 70% ethanol) and a single round of washing with 70% ethanol. The ODN thus obtained was dissolved in PBS at 0.1 mM and reacted with the activated peptide (0.2 mM) for one hour at room temperature. The reaction was checked by gel electrophoresis and ethidium bromide staining. The NLS-attached ODN was purified by HPLC and used for the synthesis of MIDGE p36-NLS constructs.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A further feature or aspect of an embodiment is believed at the time of the filing of this patent application to possibly reside broadly in the DNA expression construct, where the oligopeptide comprises the amino acid sequence PKKKRKV (proline - lysine - lysine - lysine - arginine - lysine - valine) (Seq ID 3).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The following U.S. Patent Applications are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in their entirety herein: Serial No. 10/057,311, filed January 24, 2002, entitled "Covalently Closed Nucleic Acid Molecules for Immunostimulation," and having inventors Junghans, et al. and attorney docket no. NHL-NP-37; Serial No. 10/041,672, filed January 8, 2002, entitled "Feline Interleukin-12 as Immunostimulant," and having inventors Lutz, et al. and attorney docket no. NHL-NP-36; and Serial No. _____ 10/816,465, filed April 1, 2004, entitled "Means for eliciting an immune

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response and a method therefor," and having inventors Sonia MORENO-LÓPEZ and Marcos TIMÓN-JIMENÉZ and attorney docket no. NHL-NP-45.--

Please replace the abstract currently on file with the new abstract submitted herewith on a separate sheet.